113. In the Násik and other divisions the work of clearing of boundary lines, as also fellings for free grants of timber, wood supplied for relief kitchens, &c., come under this head. The Executive Engineers of Khándesh and Násik were supplied with timber and bamboos for building huts for famine labourers.

114. Unregulated fellings go on in the old gáirán areas of the Poona Division which extend over 12,576 acres.

115. In the Sátára Division cutting of royalty trees in Málki lands, clearing of boundary lines, &c., were undertaken under this method during the year under report.

(*e*).—Extraction and Transport of Major Forest Produce by Land and Water.

116. Cart tracks traverse the forests of this Circle which are below the ghâts, in all directions, as also the forest areas in the Deccan, except on the very mountainous parts, and timber, firewood, bamboos, &c., are carried in bullock carts wherever carts can travel. In some parts of the Sátpuda forests timber and bamboos are dragged by bullocks and ponies.

117. In mountainous tracts bordering the Syhádris, timber, &c., is moved on the backs of pack animals and in head-loads. The Forest Department does not undertake the carrying of timber or other forest produce, either by land or by water, but preferentially sells the trees on foot for the purchaser to fell and remove at his own cost. Timber, &c., cut by departmental labour is brought to temporary sale-depôts, either inside or outside forests, where it is stacked and sold by public auction, the material being removed subsequently by the purchasers. The Narbada, the Tápti, the Godávari, the Bhima, the Koyna and Wárna are the only water-ways which are sometimes used by purchasers, timber-dealers and private owners for floating timber.

(*f*).—Exploitation of Minor Forest Produce.

(*1*).—*Extraction of Fodder.*

118. Grass is exploited by hand from certain valuable kurans of the Central Circle, and the right to cut grass is sold by public auction. The grass is also removed on permits issued on payment of fees. The means that are used for removing grass are the same which are used for the removal of timber.

119. The statement given below shows the area from which grass was removed by hand and the amount realized :—

No.	Division.	Area.	Amount.
		Acres.	Rs.
1	East Khandesh ...	20,324	14,615
2	West Khandesh ...	20,827	9,450
3	Násik	31,328	14,652
4	Ahmednagar	91,540	4,695
5	Poona	27,848	1,263
6	Sátára	18,853	4,612
7	Sholápur	9,645	1,303
	Total ...	220,365	50,590

120. In the East Khándesh Division 57,531 cart-loads of grass valued at Rs. 7,191 were removed from the forests on permits; while in the West Khándesh Division 66,560 cart-loads, 3,912 head-loads, 974 bullock loads and 73 donkey-loads valued at Rs. 13,329 were removed from forests on payment of fees. In the Násik Division 5,692 cart-loads of grass were removed and the amount realized was Rs. 2,840. In addition to this, owing to the scanty rainfall and want of fodder for cattle, 231,491 pounds of grass were cut in forests at Rs. 2-8-0 per 1,000 lbs., and sold for Rs. 814.

121. In the Ahmednagar Division an area of 4,935 acres, the grass on which is valued at Rs. 12,750, was handed over to the Commissariat Department,

Remount and Rearing Depôt and Civil Veterinary Departments, under the authority of Government Resolution No. 6047, dated 25th August 1890, for the supply of grass for troop horses and other cattle belonging to Government :—

No.	Name of Reserve.	Area.	Estimated value.
	(a).—The Commissariat Department.	A. g.	Rs. a. p.
1	Kapurwadi	512 15	618 0 0
2	Deogaon	126 20	1,250 0 0
3	Ratadgaon	270 31	2,738 0 0
4	Imampur	537 12	1,646 0 0
5	Sassewadi	347 0	1,245 0 0
6	Manjor Sumbha	535 17	1,500 0 0
7	Shendi	273 36	2,000 0 0
8	Ghospuri	580 4	1,411 0 0
	Total ...	3,183 15	12,408 0 0
	(b).—The Remount Department.		
1	Walunj	371 30	65 0 0
2	Ranjani	401 36	87 0 0
3	Padampur	13 27	66 0 0
4	Hamidpur	67 12	83 0 0
5	Pimpalgaon Malvi	777 16	31 0 0
	Total ...	1,632 1	332 0 0
	(c).—Civil Veterinary Department.		
1	Shendi	119 14	13 0 0
	Total ...	119 14	13 0 0
	Grand Total ...	4,934 30	12,753 0 0

122. In the Poona Division the undermentioned reserved forests were placed at the disposal of the Commissariat Department for the exploitation of grass by hand. In ordinary years the grass of these forests is assessed at Rs. 28,735, but seeing that the baled grass brought in the famine grass operations though of inferior quality to that produced in these forests sold by public auction in Poona at Rs. 16 per 1,000 lbs., it would not be too much if the estimate is doubled during the year of the report and the value of the grass were to be assessed at Rs. 57,000 :—

No.	Name of Forest.	Forest area.	Yield of grass in Tons.
	For Cutting.		
	Mulshi Range.	A. g.	
1	Ghotawde	539 13	34·8
2	Darawli	169 13	35·7
	Total ...	708 26	70·5
	Purandhar Range.		
3	Bhiwari	197 15	56·8
4	Shivre	136 2	35·6
5	Pokhare	142 4	23·7
6	Bhongaoli	809 12	69·5
	Total ...	1,284 33	185·6

No.	Name of Forest.	Forest area.	Yield of grass in Tons.
	Mával Range.	A. g.	
7	Umbre Naulac	760 35	119·2
8	Ambi	208 28	64·4
9	Akurdi	120 28	52·8
10	Nanoli	170 0	82·0
11	Induri	198 36	52·6
12	Wadgaon	151 0	31·4
13	Pachane	113 22	34 8
14	Pusane	135 5	35·0
15	Talegaon	295 28	24·1
	Total ...	2,154 22	496·3
	Khed Range.		
16	Chakan	536 26	22·6
17	Chimbhali	263 20	38·9
18	Ambethan	259 24	49·5
19	Warale	141 38	14·1
20	Wasuli	96 12	24·8
21	Kohinde Budruk (Kundeshwar)...	681 7	66·7
22	Sinde	222 20	31·8
	Total ...	2,201 27	248·4
	Haveli Range.		
23	Katraj	1,859 35	634·5
24	Undri	136 10	33·4
25	Pisoli	58 4	23·4
26	Kondhawe Budruk	327 39	39·2
27	Gogalvadi	252 18	26·1
28	Kopre	157 38	39·2
29	Agalambe	464 34	58·6
30	Dhairi	264 28	48·2
31	Arvi	354 27	17·6
32	Ambribowa	257 18	110·3
33	Dharjai	406 1	79·4
34	Bhawanichadara	85 7	17·3
35	Kalyan	149 7	48·6
36	Khadakwasle	90 24	22·9
37	Pashan	198 13	57·1
38	Bawadhan Khurd...	241 24	35·9
39	Warje	128 0	13·6
40	Bhukum	28 23	17·8
41	Marunji	54 14	17·5
42	Kotharud	316 11	23·5
43	Parwati	592 10	118·7
44	Dighi	170 1	48·2
45	Dhanori	177 35	27·3
46	Kasarsai	103 20	50·6
	Total ...	6,876 1	1,608·9
	Grand Total ...	13,225 29	2,609·7

And the undermentioned reserved forests were placed at the disposal of the Commissariat Department for the grazing of slaughter cattle :—

	For Grazing.	A. g.
1	Wanawari	122 24
2	Hadpsar	27 11
3	Mahomedwari	47 39
4	Undri	19 38
5	Kondhawe Khurd	32 7
	Total ...	249 39

123. In addition to the above the reserved forest at Manjri Budruk in the Haveli Range, known as the Manjri Kuran, representing an area of 278 acres, the value of the grass of which in ordinary years is assessed at Rs. 692, was transferred permanently to the Agricultural Department.

124. In the Sátára Division an area of 220 acres of reserved forests, assessed at Rs. 265, was placed at the disposal of the Commissariat Department for the purpose of exploiting grass.

(2).—Grazing.

125. The following statement shows the number of cattle of different kinds which grazed in the forests during the year 1895-96 and 1896-97 :—

No.	Division.	Buffaloes.		Cows and Bullocks.		Goats and Sheep.		Camels.		Other Animals.		Total.	
		1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
1	East Khándesh ..	25,863	24,062	151,448	155,775	71,467	24,920	...	...	1,328	903	250,106	205,660
2	West Khándesh ..	18,277	20,829	173,404	140,565	292,003	270,264	...	...	6,869	4,175	490,553	435,833
3	Násik	11,234	12,080	183,996	184,804	37,232	35,281	...	...	860	841	233,322	233,006
4	Ahmednagar	4,955	3,366	103,649	101,129	57,198	59,009	...	...	393	381	166,195	163,885
5	Poona	17,892	15,853	98,070	120,125	65,192	54,250	...	...	263	110	181,422	188,338
6	Sátára	10,286	8,520	59,885	61,535	65,085	58,122	...	...	11	...	135,267	128,177
7	Sholápur	2,208	441	29,916	14,324	...	...	...	...	30	377	32,154	15,142
	Total ...	90,715	83,151	800,368	778,257	588,177	501,846	...	...	6,759	6,787	1,489,019	1,370,041

126. And the following of the above numbers respectively enjoyed free grazing compared with those of preceding year, under free grazing permits issued :—

No.	Division.	Buffaloes.		Cows and Bullocks.		Goats and Sheep.		Other Animals.		Total.	
		1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
1	East Khándesh ...	2,622	2,387	8,470	12,573	...	...	109	260	11,201	15,220
2	West Khándesh ...	2,054	3,805	23,561	18,129	194	240	376	189	26,185	22,363
3	Násik	2,305	1,895	76,772	74,946	300	300	502	502	79,879	77,643
4	Ahmednagar	385	385	5,423	4,237	...	...	...	...	5,808	4,622
5	Poona	13,352	12,347	78,365	108,410	...	...	24	3	91,741	120,760
6	Sátára	6,104	5,736	37,335	46,764	...	...	...	...	43,439	52,500
7	Sholápur	716	211	5,414	8,871	...	...	...	374	6,130	9,456
	Total ...	27,538	26,766	235,340	273,930	494	540	1,011	1,328	264,383	302,564

127. But when forest areas, excepting those specially under re-forestry, such as compartments of forest blocks which have been worked recently, trees having been felled and timber exploited, and the coupe subsequently sown up, and regular plantations, were opened for the free grazing of cattle in the distressed tracts, which covered the whole area of the Central Circle, by order of the Commissioner, C. D., in communication with the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle, during the month of November 1896, the issue of free grazing permits was suspended and all and any cattle were permitted to enter and to graze without hindrance or interference, so that the figures in the foregoing table do not show anything like the total number of cattle that enjoyed free grazing in the forests during the year.

128. A comparison between the grass and grazing receipts of the year of this report and of 1895-96 is represented in the subjoined statement :—

No.	Division.	1895-96.	1896-97.	Remarks.
		Rs.	Rs.	
1	East Khándesh	86,238	81,063	
2	West Khándesh	1,20,067	1,04,163	
3	Násik	54,050	59,333	
4	Ahmednagar	38,960	38,193	
5	Poona	46,818	40,127	
6	Sátára	39,963	35,330	
7	Sholápur	21,304	20,047	
8	Famine grass and grazing ...	...	66,351	
	Total ...	4,07,400	4,44,607	